

— **McCurdy House**  
**HA 1915**

This modest, circa 1904 L-shaped house is located on the downhill, west side of Chestnut Street in the village of Cardiff, Maryland, and is one of only two such houses in the town. As typical of Victorian era structures, the house is replete with windows and has a multiple-gable roof. The use of slate in the roof and foundation attests to the town's dependence on the slate as the primary industry and life-blood.

Built for Dr. William McCurdy, the house passed on to his two daughters who lived there until the 1940's. Of interest is the deed stipulation at the first sale of this lot in 1903 that the house, which had to be constructed within a year, must be of similar design and stature of existing houses on Chestnut Street. (The two houses mentioned are George Proctor's and the Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church manse.) It is apparent that the South Delta Land Company was concerned with the nature of the development, character of the structures, and marketability of the lots of the newly (1896) subdivided land.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA 1915

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common McCurdy House

**2. Location**

street & number 1618 Chestnut Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district 5th

state Maryland

county Harford

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joseph N. Waters, Jr.

street & number same

telephone no.: unlisted

city, town Cardiff

state and zip code MD, 21024

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

liber CGH 2198

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl.

folio 1085

city, town Bel Air

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title none

date

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA 1915

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two-story, frame L-shaped house is located on the downhill, west side of Chestnut Street in the village of Cardiff, Maryland. It is the smaller of only two L-shaped houses in the town, the other being located on the west side of Main Street just below this house. As typical of this style, the long part of the house has a gable roof paralleling the street it fronts. A short portion projects forward with its gable roof perpendicular to the main house gable roof and street, its gable with returns capping a two-story three-paneled bay window that occupies that forward-most end. A unembellished, shed-roofed porch fills in the angle at the main, east facade. An internal chimney rises from the intersection of the gables. Both the roof and foundation are made of the region's world-famous slate. The raised, coursed slate foundation, which is set off beautifully from the building's white aluminum siding, is readily in view due to the ground sloping away at the rear of the house.

The front lower and upper two bays are articulated by the main entrance of modern, varnished wood in the south lower bay and 1/1 sash windows in all others. The projecting portion of the L has long windows in the lower panels and standard windows of the upper panels of the two-story bay, a narrow window centered at the projecting gable, and an upper and lower window in the south side. The south endwall of the long portion of the house has a small and a standard window in the lower and upper west bay, respectively. The north endwall is two bays wide with windows in the upper and lower bays. Two small windows are evenly spaced at the gable. All of the building's first- and second-story windows are accented by contrasting black shutters.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA 1915

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates****Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This modest, circa 1904 L-shaped house is one of only two such houses in the town of Cardiff. As typical of Victorian era structures, the house is replete with windows and has a multiple-gable roof. The use of slate in the roof and foundation attests to the town's dependence on the slate as the primary industry and life-blood. The sister towns of Cardiff, Whiteford, and Delta (PA) developed primarily from the area's tremendous slate quarrying industry.

Built for Dr. William McCurdy, the house passed on to his two daughters who lived there until the 1940's. Of interest is the deed stipulation at the first sale of this lot in 1903 that the house, which had to be constructed within a year, must be of similar design and stature of existing houses on Chestnut Street. (The two houses mentioned are George Proctor's and the Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church manse.) It is apparent that the South Delta Land Company was concerned with the nature of the development, character of the structures, and marketability of the lots of the newly (1896) subdivided land.

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, a Welsh quarry owner who operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing mostly through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen in various forms. The parcel of 17 acres that created this lot was sold to the South Delta Land Company in 1896 through an Equity Case on behalf of Parry's great niece. As with this house, most of the structures at the north end of Cardiff were built around the turn of the century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA 19157

See additional sheets

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 213 acresQuadrangle name DeltaQuadrangle scale 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 221 on tax map 5, as provided on accompanying map

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state none code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Klairorganization Harford County Planning and Zoning date September 1995street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (410)638-3103city or town Bel Air state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

**McCURDY HOUSE**  
Title Search

CGH 2198/1085	November 8, 1994	Grantor: Thomas K Rodgers, Personal Representative of Estate of Delsie I. Baker Grantee: Joseph N. Waters, Jr. Granted: town lot of 40.39 perches with improvements
GRG 450/145	November 29, 1955	Grantor: Robert W. and Belva N. Harvey Grantee: Emory W. and Delsie I. Baker Granted: same
GRG 383/492	October 15, 1952	Grantor: Ida Mae Bagley, widow Grantee: Robert W. and Belva N. Harvey Granted: town lot of 47.44 perches with improvements
GCB 267/93	June 30, 1941	Grantor: Guyanna McCurdy et al. Grantee: Ida Mae Bagley, widow Granted: same
SWC 230/498	August 15, 1934	Grantor: Spencer K. Heaps Grantee: Guyanna McCurdy and Alice M. McCurdy (sisters) Granted: same
SWC 230/498	August 15, 1934	Grantor: Guyanna McCurdy and Alice M. McCurdy Grantee: Spencer K. Heaps Granted: same
JAR 150/39	June 16, 1915	Grantor: Dr. William C. McCurdy Grantee: Guyanna McCurdy and Alice M. McCurdy Granted: same
WSF 120/142	September 27, 1906	Grantor: John A. Robinson, Assignnee for mortgage of Frank H. and Viola F. Arthur Grantee: William C. McCurdy Granted: same
WSF 115/354	May 31, 1905	Grantor: William C. and Hannah A. S. McCurdy Grantee: Frank H. Arthur Granted: town lot for \$2000.00 (implies improvements)
WSF 108/289	October 28, 1903	Grantor: South Delta Land Company Grantee: William C. McCurdy Granted: town lot of 47.44 perches on Chestnut St. An interesting stipulation: must erect and complete within one year a dwelling house of at least similar design, character, and quality of dwelling of George C. Proctor and the manse of Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church

WSF 88/282	May 26, 1896	<p>Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case WSF 41/351 Elizabeth J. Parry v. Margaret Parry et al.)</p> <p>Grantee: South Delta Land Company (via James Poff, agent)</p> <p>Granted: a part of the lands described in equity case (less than 19 acres) to be subdivided into town building lots</p>
Plat book DGW 2/64	1891	Survey plat of lots to be subdivided, South Delta Land Company
Will Records WS 10/440	September 12, 1888	<p>John Parry, quarryman, bequeaths:</p> <p>To his daughter, Elizabeth, the house in which he resides and the 84' by 400' lot on which it stands.</p> <p>To his son, Richard Parry, all his remaining lands, approximately 17 acres</p> <p>To each of his children, Mary Williams, John, Richard, Jacob, and Elizabeth Parry 1/6 of his shares in the Welsh Slate Company of Harford County.</p>
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	<p>Grantor: Hugh E. Hughes</p> <p>Grantee: John Parry</p> <p>Granted: 10 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$1050.00</p>
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	<p>Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd</p> <p>Grantee: John Parry</p> <p>Granted: 2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" with improvements, on west side of Main St. (same as ALJ 25/346) for \$1200.00</p>
ALJ 25/346	April 11, 1871	<p>Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife</p> <p>Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (daughter)</p> <p>Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch (see ALJ 9/29)</p>
ALJ 9/30	May 29, 1857	<p>Grantor: Richard Hughes et al.</p> <p>Grantee: John and Ellin Parry</p> <p>Granted: 8 acres 35 perches of "Hawkins Chance" for \$500.00</p>
ALJ 9/29	May 29, 1857	<p>Grantor: John Parry</p> <p>Grantee: Richard Hughes</p> <p>Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch</p>
HDG 36/424	July 27, 1850	<p>Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry</p> <p>Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes</p> <p>Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$350.00</p>

HDG 36/215	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Rowland Perry Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$600.00
HDG 36/212	January 22, 1850	Grantor: Archibald A. and Nancy Hawkins Grantee: Rowland Perry (Parry) Granted: part of "Hawkins Chance" for \$850.00, acreage unknown
HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archibald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", "Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and "Montgomerys Delight" . The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley, John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. 1989.

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centennial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centennial celebration which was organized by the Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

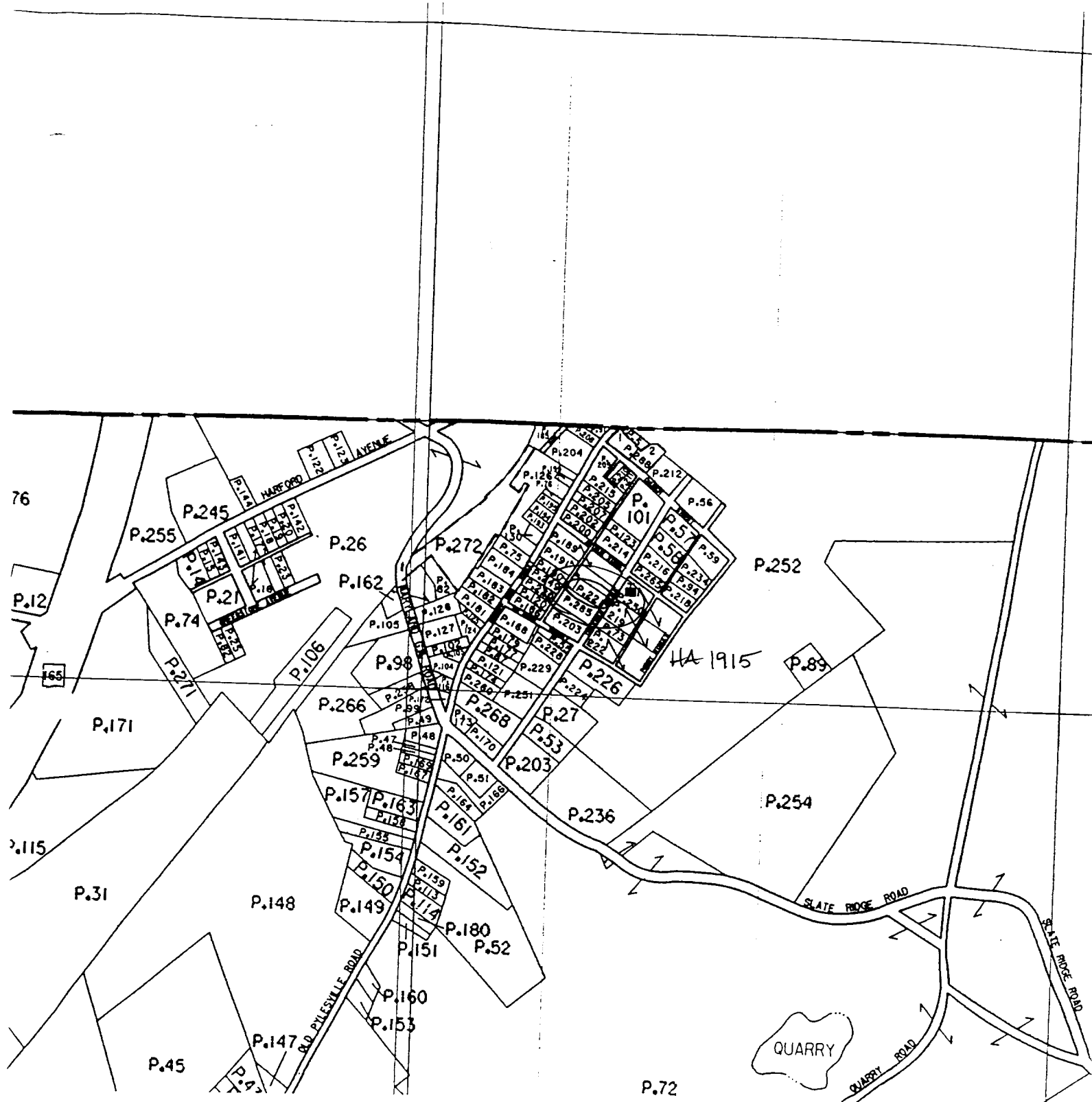
The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930, Alan Gowans. 1986

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995 regarding Parry family history.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

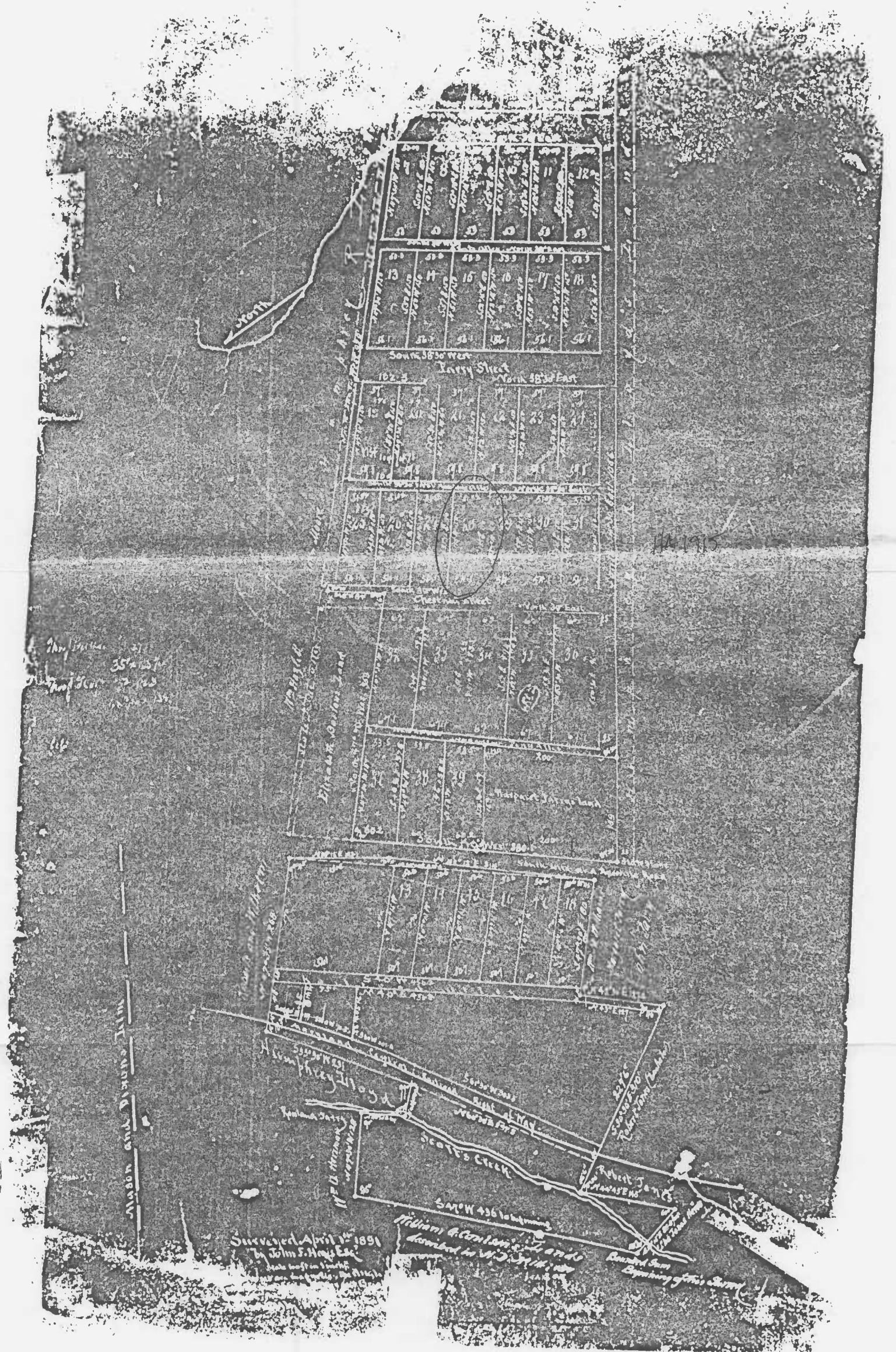
Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



HA-1915

McCurdy House  
Parcel 221, Tax Map 5

# PLAT of SOUTH DELTA LAND COMPANY! 1891



150 000 FEET  
(PA.)

P E A C H B O

PENNSYLVANIA  
Creek

4399

4398

4398

33

PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

32

YORK CO  
HARFORD CO

74

FIVE FORKS 3 MI.  
UNRAGEION 0.6 MI

WHITEFORD

136

ROAD

DOOLEY

MARYLAND

165

Quarry

East

358

Cardiff  
HA-1915

SLATE RIDGE

550 Slate Ridge School

Fire Observation  
Station No. 77  
Whiteford

QUARRY

653

Whiteford

GRADE ROAD

474

WHEELER

SCHOOL ROAD

RAILROAD

OLD  
PYLESVILLE

Pylesville

BM

358

5763 III NW  
(FAWN GROVE)

374

513

HILL 6.4 MI  
EYER 2.1 MI

HA-1915

USGS Delta Quadrangle  
1: 24000  
McCurdy House